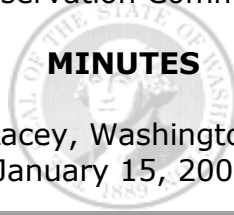


Approved at the March 19, 2009 Commission Meeting

Washington State Conservation Commission Regular Meeting



Lacey, Washington
January 15, 2009

The Washington State Conservation Commission (Commission/WSCC) met in regular session on January 15, 2009 in Lacey, Washington. Commission Chair Lynn Bahrych called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m.

ATTENDEES

Lynn Bahrych, Chair
Fred Colvin, Vice Chair
Bill Boyum, Member
Lynn Brown, Member
Tracy Eriksen, Member
Lee Faulconer, Member
Melodie Selby, Member
Dean Longrie, Member
Jim Peters, Member

COMMISSION STAFF

Mark Clark, Executive Director
Ron Shultz, Policy Director
Tom Salzer, Technical Services Manager
Debbie Becker, Financial Services Manager
Stu Trefry, Puget Sound Regional Manager
Megan McCormack, Program Specialist

PARTNERS REPRESENTED DURING THIS MEETING:

John Larson, Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD)
Roylene Rides-at-the-Door, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Kaleen Cottingham, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)

GUESTS:

Chris Herron, Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD)
Doug Sutherland, Past Commissioner of Public Lands

Additions/Corrections to Agenda Items

To accommodate presenter's schedules, the following presentation was moved up on the agenda, Presentation and letter of support on Energy Farm program, Jeff Canaan. John Larson added discussion of the Conservation Planning Format briefing paper, Mark Clark added Agency Request Legislation (Action Item).

Consent Agenda

Lynn Brown moved and Tracy Eriksen seconded the motion to approve the December 4, 2008 Regular Business Meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Presentation to Outgoing Commission Chair, Bill Boyum

Doug Sutherland, Outgoing Commissioner of Public Lands made a very special appearance to present an award of appreciation to Outgoing Commission Chair, Bill Boyum. Doug, as well as the

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Commissioners recognized Bill's dedication to the values and beliefs of the Commission and thanked him for a job well done.

Jay Manning, Executive Director, Dept. of Ecology

Jay Manning discussed with the Commission the Department of Ecology's priorities. He stated the 09-11 Budget will definitely be a high priority this year. His concerns are that of the possible budget cuts to the agencies as well as the Water Quality program within Ecology. Lynn Bahrych asked Jay how the Commission and Conservation Districts can partner better with Ecology. Jay stated that working together on a Stimulus package could provide multiple benefits to all parties involved.

Recreation and Conservation Office Presentation

Kaleen Cottingham, Executive Director, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) gave a presentation about RCO and how partnering with the Conservation Commission is so important during these difficult economic times.

Appointments

Cowlitz CD -

Fred Colvin announced that James Scott is an applicant for the Cowlitz CD open position.

Lynn Brown moved that the Commission appoint James Scott to the Cowlitz CD board, Jim Peters seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Snohomish CD -

Fred Colvin announced that Mark Craven is an applicant for the Snohomish CD open position.

Fred Colvin moved that the Commission appoint Mark Craven to the Snohomish CD board, Lynn Brown seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mason CD -

Fred Colvin also presented the two applicants for the Mason CD board, Glade Ross & Michelle McCallum.

Fred moved to appoint Michelle McCallum, seconded by Dean Longrie. Motion carried.

Stevens CD -

Tracy Eriksen announced that there were two applicants for the Stevens CD board, Connie Bergstrom & Avrum Baum.

Tracy moved to appoint Connie Bergstrom to the Stevens CD board, seconded by Fred Colvin. Motion carried.

Ferry CD -

Tracy Eriksen announced that Patricia McKern is an applicant for the Ferry CD open position.

Tracy moved to appoint Patricia McKern to the Ferry CD board, Dean Longrie seconded. Motion carried.

Finance

- **Capacity Building**

Due to recent weather conditions the Capacity Building ranking committee was unable to meet. Debbie Becker asked the Commissioners if they would approve having the Executive Committee review and approve the disbursement of \$12,500 to the districts agreed upon by the ranking committee.

Lynn Brown moved that the Executive Committee approve the Capacity Building ranking committee's suggestion for disbursement of the remaining \$12,500. Lee Faulconer seconded. Motion carried.

- **Mid Year Vouchering Update**

Debbie Becker provided an update on the Conservation Districts vouchering activities.

- **Pierce Conservation District Funding**

Dean Longrie moved to continue the discussion from the December Commission Meeting on the Pierce CD Funding, Fred Colvin seconded. Motion carried.

Discussion. The motion from the December, 2008 meeting is now back on the floor.

Fred Colvin moved and Lynn Brown seconded to allocate Pierce the additional \$25,000. Motion carried.

Conservation Planning and Technical group

John Larson gave a brief update on the Conservation Planning and Technical group. A more comprehensive review will be given at the March, 2009 meeting.

Presentation and letter of support on Energy Farm program

Jeff Canaan, Department of Agriculture gave a presentation about energy efficiency in Northwest Agriculture.

Bill Boyum moved that the Commission write a letter of support for the Energy Farm program, Tracy Eriksen seconded. Motion carried.

09-11 Budget Update

Staff provided a one-page document showing the impact on the WSCC and Conservation Districts from the Governor's 2009-2011 Operating and Capital Budgets. The Commission's general fund allocation was reduced by 20.9%. Staff asked for any changes to this document. Bill Boyum suggested removing "Our overall agency budget reduction (from all fund sources, not including capital) is 6.6% as this may seem confusing alongside the "general fund allocation from 07-09 is reduced by 20.9%. The commissioners agreed and a consensus was met to remove that last bulleted item. The Commission staff are scheduled to present our budget in front of the Senate Agriculture Committee.

OFP Recommendations and Indicators Approval

Ron Shultz provided information on the OFP Recommendations as well as a presentation on the Indicators at the work session held January 14th. The Commissioners asked to review these and come back with approval the following day.

Fred Colvin would like to formally accept the recommendations and provide a letter of support on behalf of the Commission congratulating the OFP for a job well done.

Lynn Brown moved that the Commission accept the report of the Office of Farmland Preservation and the Commission thanks the members of the Farmland Preservation Task Force for their work. The Commission also supports the concepts reflected in the recommendations found in the Report and looks forward to the Office and Task Force continuing to work towards further consideration of the recommendations by other entities. Seconded by Jim Peters.

Melodie Selby and Lee Faulconer would like to abstain from voting. Bill Boyum would like it reflected that while he will participate in the vote, he doesn't necessarily agree with all of the written context.

Motion carried

Mark Clark recommended convening an inter-agency meeting to discuss the OFP recommendations. A report from this meeting will be provided at the March Commission meeting.

Legal Issues

- **Mason CD Lawsuit – EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Conservation Commission went into executive session at 1:40 pm for 20 minutes, for the purpose of discussing with counsel litigation to which the Commission may become a party, as allowed by RCW 42.30.110(1)(i). No action was taken while in executive session. The Commission returned from executive session at 2:00 pm.

Upon returning from executive session, Assistant Attorney General, Sharonne O'Shea stated that Jim Pharris, Assistant Attorney General recommended to Rob McKenna, Attorney General that they move forward on filing an amicus brief with the courts.

- **Pierce CD Investigation**

Morgan Damerow, Assistant Attorney General, stated that the investigation into the Pierce CD did not reveal any malfeasance. Fred Colvin would like to explore more avenues into how the Commission can encourage and support the Pierce CD board into becoming a more effective board.

Lynn Brown moved that staff with the guidance of the Executive Committee develop a letter to the Pierce CD admonishing them about their behavior at their June 26th meeting and letting them know it was unacceptable. Dean Longrie seconded.

Tracy Eriksen expressed some concerns about writing this letter.

Motion carried.

Agency Request Legislation

Ron Shultz stated that the Agency request legislation that was submitted to OFM had been looked over so he is now requesting that the Commission allow staff to present the legislation to the legislature themselves.

Fred Colvin moved, Dean Longrie seconded to allow the Commission staff to present agency request legislation to the legislature.

Lynn Brown was concerned about the current climate and whether or not it was a good time to be turning in legislation.

Motion carried.

EPA – Yakima Group

A group of 15 state and local agencies met to discuss groundwater issues in South Yakima County which included issues with nitrates.

Public Comment

Chris Herron, informed the Commission that the next STAC meeting will be via teleconference on January 27th at 9:30 am. He asked Roylene Rides-at-the-Door if NRCS will have enough staff to cover their yearly audit, she informed him that she was unsure at this time. He also asked if there was a resolution introduced at WACD this year regarding Facto Voting rules.

Chair's Comments

Lynn Bahrych reminded the Commissioners that the Conservation Commission will be a sponsor of the Dig It exhibit put on by the Smithsonian in May, 2010.

Adjournment

Commission Chair Lynn Bahrych adjourned at 3:20 pm.